

Ledges Through the Lens – Amateur Photography Contest

Contest Rules

1. Photographs must be taken at Ledges State Park.
2. Photos must be taken between January 1, 2023, and October 31, 2023. All entries must be received by October 31, 2023.
3. Categories:
 - a. Scenic & Seasons
 - b. Family & Friends
 - c. Living Things*Categories will be judged by age class (10 & under, 11-17, and 18 & over)
4. By entering the contest photographers are verifying that the image is their own and are agreeing to have their submitted photos used/copied/displayed (without fee or compensation) for the contest voting purposes in local publications, in articles relating to the contest, saved for any future use by the Park Friends Group, displayed in the Park contact station, on the Iowa DNR website, on the Friends Facebook page, in local Convention & Visitors Bureau promotional material and website and also on cards or postcards for sale by the Friends Group.
5. The contest is free to be entered.
6. All photographs submitted must be unpublished.
7. Personal identification or text of any type is not allowed in the photo. This includes, but is not limited to: a quote, title, photographer's name, logo, watermark, etc.
8. No individual may enter more than two images per category.
9. No image may be submitted into multiple categories.
10. Photos may not depict anything against the rules of the park. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/places-to-go/state-parks>
11. The contest is open to amateur photographers only. Professional photographers and anyone who sells their own photos are not allowed.
12. Contest judges, DNR employees, and Friends Group members and their families are not eligible to enter.
13. No drone photography allowed.

Photo Guidelines

1. Color or black and white photographs will be accepted in all categories.
2. JPEG files should be high resolution at 1500x2100 pixels (5x7 inches at 300 dpi)
3. All submissions must include a completed entry form.
4. If there are recognizable people in the photographs, you must fill out a release form for each recognizable individual shown in the photograph(s). Please email Ledges@dnr.iowa.gov to obtain a release form.
5. We will not accept CDs, slides, or prints, all photos must be submitted as a JPEG file through the online submission form.
6. Photographs with inappropriate content will not be considered.
7. Photos must not be significantly modified. Modifications that are permitted are: resizing, cropping, color correcting (such as adjusting tone, saturation, etc.), removing red-eye, dust and spot editing, sharpening, removing noise, and similar modifications. Composite images are not allowed. This includes any photo that has elements added or removed. Frames, borders, watermarks and copyright notices are not allowed such images will not be eligible for awards.

How to Enter

1. Photo entries must be submitted digitally to the address below. The file name of the photograph should include the following format: Category_PhotographerName.jpeg
 - a. (EX: LivingThings_JohnDoe.jpeg). Please add a "2" after the photographer's name if the photograph is a second submission for a particular category.
2. There is a limit of two images per category.
3. **Submit photos through the following link:** <https://forms.gle/JMVaWT9sMFgpu97JA>

Copyright and terms of use

By submitting your photos, you grant a non-exclusive, royalty free license to Friends of the Ledges and their associated licenses to reproduce, display, and distribute to the public by sale or other transfer and to utilize the photograph for any purpose, including, but not limited to: publication on the internet, interpretive publications and commercial uses. Submissions of this form constitute permission to use and publish your full name along with your photographs. There will be no compensation for use of submitted photographs. Photographers will retain ownership of image(s).

Disclaimer

No responsibility is assumed by Friends of the Ledges for lost, late, damage or technically malfunction to entries. By entering, participants release Friends of the Ledges, Iowa DNR employees and agents from all liability of injuries, loss and damage of any kind with connection to this project. Restrictions, conditions and limitations apply.

Judging Criteria

1. Originality (capturing unique qualities, experiences or beauty of Ledges)
2. Artistic Composition (framing and balance of elements within the shot)
3. Technical Quality (lighting, crispness, color, and focus of the shot)
4. Impact (i.e.: does the image reach out and grab the viewer?)

Thanks to our contest sponsors below!



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